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## Prefatory Note

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# Prefatory Note

The 1988 volume of *Draftings in Economics: Major Themes* is the fourth in a series of annual publications representing the work of University of Northern Iowa students writing in the field of economics. Each article included here is the outgrowth of a paper written for a class at UNI. We wish to thank those faculty members whose commitment to student writing provided the impetus for these four articles.

Last January twelve papers were submitted for consideration for publication in *Draftings in Economics*. Economics faculty members and members of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the economics student honorary, used a blind review process to select four outstanding papers. Writing groups were formed in February which included the authors (Benedict Hussmann, Kimberly Amdahl, Mardel Kelly, and Stephanie Staton), volunteer student editors (Evan Amdahl and Karen Bass), faculty advisors (Ken McCormick and Janet Rives), and *Draftings in Economics* editor Barbara Lounsberry. These writing groups met during the spring semester as the authors worked through multiple drafts of their manuscripts.

This year's volume includes two papers which examine the Great Depression, one dealing with alternative historical interpretations of the period and the other focusing on the financial crisis and the ensuing institutional reforms. A third paper examines the role of float in the monetary system of the United States. The final paper analyzes the implications of the changing value of the dollar during the period 1980 to 1985.

We hope readers will enjoy and learn from *Draftings in Economics: Major Themes*. Those of us who worked on this volume certainly did.

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